

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

The present amendment cancels claims 12, 16-18, 21, 24 and 28-30, amends claims 11, 22 and 25-27, and adds new claims 31-43. Support for the amendments to claims 11, 22 and 25-27, and new claims 31-43, is found within the claims and specification as originally filed.

Support for the amendment to claim 11 is found at specification page 4, lines 20-24, page 5, lines 1-12, and page 19, Table 1, as well as claim 16.

Support for newly added claims 31-43 is found at specification page 4, lines 20-24, page 5, lines 1-21, page 6, lines 5-19, page 8, lines 11-19, page 9, lines 4-25, page 10, lines 1-17, page 19, Table 1, page 22, lines 9-25, as well as claims 11, 15-17, 20 and 22-27.

It is believed that these amendments have not resulted in the introduction of new matter.

REMARKS

Claims 11, 13-15, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25-27 and 31-43 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 12, 16-18, 21, 24 and 28-30 have been cancelled, claims 11, 22 and 25-27 have been amended, and new claims 31-43 have been added, by the present amendment.

Applicants wish to extend their appreciation to Examiner Venkat for the indication on pages 9 and 10 of the Official Action that claims 15, 16, 20, 22 and 24 contain allowable subject matter. As a result, claim 11 has been amended to incorporate therein the limitations of claim 16. New claim 31 has been added to incorporate therein the limitations of previously presented claims 11, 15, 20 and 22. New claim 37 has been added to incorporate therein the limitations of previously presented claims 11, 15, 20 and 24. New claim 42 has been added to incorporate therein limitations from previously presented claims 11, 15, 17, 20 and 22.

Applicants also wish to extend their appreciation to Examiner Venkat for the helpful and courteous discussion held on August 5, 2008, with their undersigned Representative. During the meeting, the new matter rejections were discussed in addition to a clarification, with respect to pages 2, 9 and 10 of the Official Action, as to the particular claims that contain allowable subject matter. The content of this discussion is believed to be reflected in the remarks set forth herein.

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of: (1) claims 11-15, 17 and 19-21 over Kosugi (JP 2002-154932) in view of Collin (U.S. Patent 6,491,931); and (2) claims 22-30 over Kosugi in view of Collin and Tanaka (JP 2002-284642), are obviated by amendment with respect to: (1) amended claim 11, which incorporates therein the allowable subject matter of claim 16; (2) new claim 31, which incorporates therein the allowable subject matter of claims 11, 15, 20 and 22; (3) new claim 37, which incorporates therein the allowable subject matter of claims 11, 15, 20 and 24; and (4) new claim 42, which incorporates therein allowable subject matter from claims 11, 15, 17, 20 and 22.

Applicants make no statement with respect to the propriety of the outstanding rejections. However, merely for the sake of expedient prosecution, Applicants have amended the claims based on the Examiner's recognition that claims 15, 16, 20, 22 and 24 are free of the cited prior art. Applicants respectfully wish to preserve their right to present original subject matter in a continuation application without prejudice.

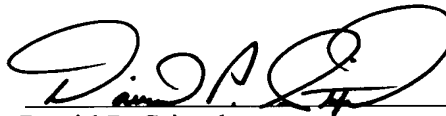
Withdrawal of these grounds of rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejection of claims 12, 18 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is obviated by the cancellation of said claims. Withdrawal of these grounds of rejection is respectfully requested.

In conclusion, Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance and notification to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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